1:Sanders Z-5/H (1952-1959) 1962 EH1 Greece EH1

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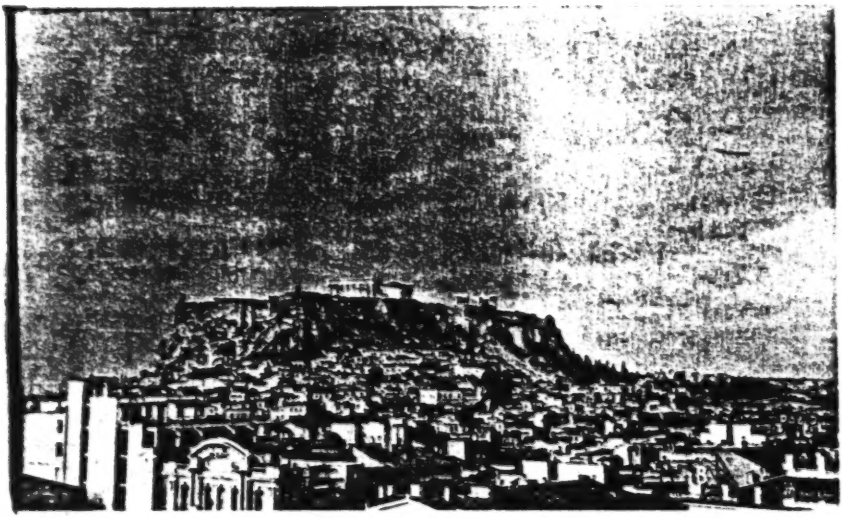

1. The Acropolis, its profile held unobstructed by city ordinance, shades the Athenian in legacy from the Golden Age.

[p 272 - A]

6: McNeill H-5 (1947, 1956) 1957
EH1 Greece EH1
Nea Eleftherohori

[Villages of the Plains]

may expect to maintain or modestly increase the standard of living they have enjoyed hitherto, it is likely that discontent will remain personal and private. As yet, hard work, saving and waiting seem to promise a solution; and with such hope present discontents seem bearable. But if some day the hopes turn out to have been in vain, then one may expect to see an active movement of political dissent and revolt appear in Nea Eleftherohori once more.

As compared with Lofiscos, therefore, Nea Eleftherohori is a good deal farther along the path toward a new social and psychological adjustment of village life. The less spacious economic base from which Nea Eleftherohori started compelled an earlier and more energetic adoption of new agricultural techniques; the old-fashioned frame in which the peasant family and community flourished from time immemorial has largely been transformed or discarded; and city standards have come in, not so much in fact as in aspiration.

PALEO CORINTHOS

Paleo Corinthos, or Old Corinth, stands on the site of the ancient city, on the isthmus between the Corinthian and Saronic gulfs. The imposing mass of Acrocorinth, crowned by extensive and well-preserved Venetian fortifications, dominates the village, whereas the ruins from classical times are comparatively inconspicuous. The modern town of Corinth lies on the shore some five miles off, and has taken over the commercial functions once centered in the ancient city. Until very recently, Old Corinth remained the mere village it had been in Turkish times.

It is, however, a much larger village than either Lofiscos or Nea Eleftherohori. Its population was officially reckoned to be 1,530 in 1947; by 1956 the figure had grown to 1,850. This growth was only partly due to natural increase, for the village

9:Megas I,B-5,4 (no date) 1951 EH1 Greece EH1

which can easily have a wider προστῷον by a simple extension of the roof. In the beginning, it succeded in forming the outline of a farm house, consisting of one or two rooms, with an open προστῷον at the front, adapted to the natural elements (soil, climate, building materials) and to the occupation of the inhabitants, and gradually formed various types of agricultural houses. 342× 174 341

This effect was possible, as it has been proved, because the προστῷον is an element capable of undergoing change(1), sometimes remaining open, and sometimes being totally or partially closed and incorporated to the main body of the house. By a continuous but organic evolution, those composite types of the modern Greek house were also formed, where the individual spaces are developed as if round the central yard, which is surrounded by a peristyle, with exactly the same method as it may be seen in the byzantine and post-byzantine monasteries and in the remains of the excavations at Olynthos, Delos and Priene.

Thus, the close relation and connection of the modern Greek house to the ancient one becomes obvious and, since the formation of the housing architecture is mainly related to the nature of the land, the study of the modern Greek houses is very profitable for the understanding of the equivalent architectural forms of ancient Greece; because, as it was very rightly stated by Franz Oelmann (Gnomon, 1927, p. 174) «the complete understanding of ancient Greek building forms, as that of any other country, is not possible without the exact knowledge of the modern popular architecture». 342× 172

Although in order to clarify the relation of the modern Greek house to the ancient one, I think it advisable to state in as brief a form, as possible, a summary of ancient house building, giving at the same time general evolutionary diagrams of the main types of building, as they are revealed by recent excavations which have contributed so abmirably to our knowledge(2).

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1) The προστῷον is very often seen in the houses of the Arian and Indo-European races, with many variations, and constitutes a basic element of the houses of this group of races (see **H. Behn,** in Eberts Reallex d. Vorgeschichte, 14 (1929) pp. 216 and foll.

2) See the article of **David Robinson** in Pauly-Krolls RE Suppl. VII 1940, 226-276. **G. Karo** in Eberts Reallex. d. Vorgesch. 5, 202 foll. Cf. **B. Rider,** The Greek House, Cambridge 1916. **Chr. Tsountas,** Ἱστορία Ἀρχ. Ἑλληνικῆς Τέχνης, Athens 1928. **D. S. Robertson,** A Handbook of Greek and Roman

9:Megas I,B-5,4 (no date) 1951 EH1 Greece EH1
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Sarakatsani
EH14

B. THE ANCIENT GREEK HOUSE

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[342]

I will not mention the curved buildings of the prehistoric era, namely the circular, elliptical, horse-shoe and arched forms, although they represent a primitive type ot human dwelling, seen in Greece from very ancient times, and although we could greatly increase our knowledge through the study of the construction of the thached or branched conical and saddle-shaped huts, used with us even to-day, by the Sarakatsanes, the Vlachoi and the Karagounides of Thessaly. For instance, the elliptical hut at Kaminades, Karditsa[1], which is not entirely curved, but has straight lines to connect the two arches and forms thus a rectangular and curved construction, teaches us how, through the influence of the rectangular shapes the arched forms were created as it is shown in the egg-shaped house at Rini in Thessaly (beginning of bronze age) and also what the type of covering in this mixed type of house would have been[2].

Consequently, I shall confine myself to the examination of the straight lined, and especially the rectangular, houses, since these today, as in the prehistoric times in Greece, constitute the most prevailing form of building.

The type of house, known as the megaron, can already be found in the neolithic age in Thessaly, in its main elements, namely the external shape and the internal arrangement of space. It is a rectangularly shaped dwelling, divided in depth, having its entrance on the narrow side and consisting of an ante-room (πρόδομος) with two posts or columns between the two antae (or even without the columns), and of two rooms, one of them larger with a hearth in the middle, and the other smaller (Plate X, 1. 2).

In the most elementary form, this building form is bipartite consisting of one room and one ante-room, and it is found under this elementary form in the palaces of the Mycenean and Homeric ages, as at Phylakopi in Melos, at pre-mycenean Troy II and at Tiryns, where, as at Mycenae, there is another room between the ante-room and the main room (Plate X, 3-5). This simplest form

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Architecture, Cambr. 1929, 2 edit. 1943. **Carl Weickert,** Typen der archaischen Architektur in Griechenland u. Kleinasien 1929. **G. P. Oikonomos,** Ὁ ἐκ τοῦ Ἀργείου Ἡραίου πήλινος οἰκίσκος, Contribution to the History of Architecture in Archaeol. Ephemeris, 1931.

1) **G. Megas** Θεσσαλ. Οἰκήσεις, p. 11, Fig. 2.

2) **B. Rider,** The Greek House, p. 64 Fig. 8; **G. P. Oikonomos,** op. cit. pp. 20 foll. Cf. **G. Mylonas,** Ἡ νεολιθικὴ ἐποχὴ ἐν Ἑλλάδι. Athens 1928.

was kept by the houses of the Geometric and the archaic ages, as it is shown by the models of clay houses and especially that of Heraion at Argos, of the middle of the 8th century (1), and by the house of Peleus, shown on the well known crater of Klitios dated 560 B.C.(2). This is also confirmed by the more ancient temples which, as it is known, have originated from the megaron, and that is why the characteristic of most of the ancient temples is the pronaos, which takes the shape of a prodomos with the two columns between the two antae, as in the more ancient temple of Nemesis at Ramnous or, less often, the shape of a double column prostyle as at the archaic temple of Athena at Sounion (first half of 6th century B.C.) (Plate X 6, 7)(3). In both these temples, sole the σηκὸς was the house of the goddess.

That the megaron remained unchanged as a building form in its primary disposition of space during the following periods which do not provide us with house remains in a satisfactory condition, is proved 1) by the palaces of some tyrants of the archaic and classical ages, excavated at Larissa, near Hermos where the tradition of the Mycenean royal palace is beyond doubt, but also where a new tendency appears, the tendency to include the megaron into a larger group of houses, imposed by the need for creation of more living space, and 2) by the houses at Priene in Asia Minor, belonging to the Hellenistic age (3rd to 2nd Cent. B.C.) (Plate XI). The nucleus of the house is also formed here by a square or rectangular (in depth and never in length) room which as a rule has in front of it a προστῷον with closed side walls and, in case of a bigger opening, with one or two columns standing between antae. That is, the form of megaron or of the temple is obviously taken as basis here as well.

The need to create more spaces imposed here the addition, on one of the long sides, of a series of smaller spaces, with a corresponding long corridor on the opposite side (Plate XI 1.3). It should be noted that the largest room, which sometimes has the hearth in its middle (Plate XI 2) and has a προστὰς in front of it, is distinguished from the others by the name «house» (οἶκος) refering to it as the original nucleus of the dwelling (4).

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1) **G. Oikonomos,** op. cit. pp. 1 and 15.

2) **Chr. Tsountas,** op. cit p. 107 Fig. 141.

3) **G. Oikonomos,** pp. 25 - 31; **Oelmann,** pp. 67 and foll.

4) **B. Rider,** op. cit. p. 241 foll. Cf. the «οικία» with the «μεγάστι» or «δμηγάστι» of the Thracian and Macedonian houses, **G. Megas,** Θρακ. Οικήσεις p. 36 note 1).

9:Megas I, B-5, 4 (no date) 1951 EH1 Greece EH1

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This group, forming the main part of the house and always facing South, has in front of it a courtyard (αὐλή) which, according to the size of the building plot, may be surrounded on one, two or even three sides by auxiliary rooms. A peripheral portico, a peristyle, is not found in the more ancient houses at Priene. Only in one case is the one side wing of the building formed by a simple arcade without any room at its back (Plate XI, 3). As it has been proved by the findings of excavations, the houses at Priene were brick-covered and therefore had an inclined, and not a horizontal, roof. The same arrangement of spaces is also found on recently excavated houses, not only in the Greek towns of Asia Minor, such as Kolophon, but also in the Greek mainland. Thus, at Agrinion, two houses of the 4th cent. B.C. were excavated, reminding of the megaron type of Priene (Robinson, in RE, suppl. VII p. 268). A similar arrangement is found in a house excavated at Diocletianoupolis in W. Macedonia, which has a hearth in the middle of the bigger room (1).

In spite of all this, the form of the megaron is not the exclusive shape of Greek house building. Already from the bronze age, and even before, other forms of dwellings were constructed, bearing no relation at all to the shape of the megaron, but showing a clear tendency towards the wide-front house.

Another building type has arisen from this tendency, the type of the «pastas» which appears as complete in the classical ages. The oldest clear remains of this type were found at Olynthos in Chalkidiki which, as it is known, was destroyed by Philip in 348 B.C. These excavations, directed by David Robinson, have brought to light more than one hundred houses, and have proved that in the 5th century, or even before, a building type was developed (or imported from outside) having the disposition of spaces not in depth, but alongside each other. It mainly consists of a series of 3-4 rooms of the wide-front type, one of which, the largest, which is distinguished by the term «οἶκος», constitutes the nucleus of the house and may be considered as the original architectural element or cell in the sense of historical development. The «οἶκος» includes the hearth and the valanium, and has in one corner an optanium or kitchen and the chimney. The other rooms, beside it, are διαιτητήρια that is living-rooms (Plate XII 1).

All these spaces face South and open to a long and narrow portico, which is named «παστάς» and gives the main character to

1) **A. Keramopoullos,** Πρακτικὰ τῆς Ἀρχαιολ. Ἑταιρείας 1938 p. 55.

9:Megas I,B-5,4 (no date) 1951 EH1 Greece EH1

the whole building form, which corresponds to the «προστὰς» or «πρόστασις» of the megaron type. Usually the παστὰς covers the whole length of the house, but sometimes one or both of its ends are divided off by a wall, thus forming auxiliary spaces such as store rooms (πιθεῶνας), exactly as it happens in the modern Greek houses of this form. Finally, by extension of these spaces, other rooms are added in the form of separate wings, added at right angles at the ends of the παστάς. Thus, as a rule, a square courtyard is left in the middle, enclosed on all four sides, and the whole building takes the form of Π.

This form has been further developed by the extension of the παστάς also on the side wings of the house and on the southern side of the courtyard, which is thus surrounded on all four sides by porticos or «peristyle» (Plate XII 2). These porticos are built with wooden posts, supporting stone capitals of doric style. The portico of the northern side, however, extending in front of the central and most important part of the house, has, as a rule, a greater depth than the others and is so arranged as to receive the sun in winter and to have shade in summer, as it is exactly stated in the Memorabilia of Xenophon III, 8,9 «in houses with a southern aspect in winter the sun shines into the παστάς, but in summer going over our heads and over the roofs it causes a shadow». And as D. Robinson has ascertained, the roofs of the houses of Olynthos were eagle-shaped.

The wide extent of this form of building is proved by the finding of houses, similar to Olynthos, at Pella in Macedonia, in the North, and at Delos in the Cyclades, and in Kôs[1] in the South. Delos, espiecially, which owes its progress to the Hellenistic period, and was destroyed in 88 and 69 B. C., has, like the towns near Vesuvius, kept its remains intact.

The houses at Delos do not differ much, from the point of view of time, from the houses at Priene, or even better, they are about one hundred years younger; that is they originate from the 2nd cent. B.C. and perhaps from the middle of the 3rd cent. B.C.[2] But, as

1) Below, Plate XII 5, the plan of a house in Kôs is reproduced, as it was measured and drawn by the writer in August 1948. This house, excavated by Moricone, is distinguished by its beautiful mosaïcs; it displays Europe's abduction, and it probably belongs to the Hellenistic years, yet it underwent changes in the arrangement of the courtyard, which I cannot determine before the systematic publication of the excavation. I am reproducing the present plan in order to show better how this type of house was widely spread in southern Greece.

2) **R. Vallois,** L'architecture Hellénique à Délos, 1944 pp. 205 and foll.

9:Megas I, B-5, 4 (no date) 1951 EH1 Greece EH1

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Fr. Oelmann (Gnomon 1927, 168) was the first to note that the houses at Delos are «from many points of view, diametrically opposite» to the houses at Priene because, while the latter basically retain the megaron type of building, «the nucleus of the houses at Delos, always consists of a big wide-front space, whose front part is, whenever possible, facing South, and which opens on a long and narrow portico».

Consequently, the similarity of the houses at Delos to those at Olynthos is obvious, as it is also shown in the plates attached (Plate XII); and what has been said for the houses at Olynthos, as regards the division of spaces and the whole formation of the peristyle, equally applies to the house construction form of Delos.

As Fr. Oelmann remarks, only the richest and relatively biggest houses at Delos have this internal courtyard surrounded by porticoes on all four sides, that is by a peristyle. But «the main essence of the house at Delos does not consist in the peristyle, i. e. in the conscientious artistic arrangement of the internal courtyard as a space, which is a secondary element, but in the wide-front shape of the central space and in the flat roof». Fr. Oelmann did not yet know the houses at Olynthos. In any case, the peristyle in the 2nd cent. B.C., spread very widely and became an essential element of any somewhat important house (Plate XII 4). From Greece, it was introduced to Italy and became the main part of the house of the Roman nobles.

Such, in general lines, is the development of housing architecture in ancient Greece.

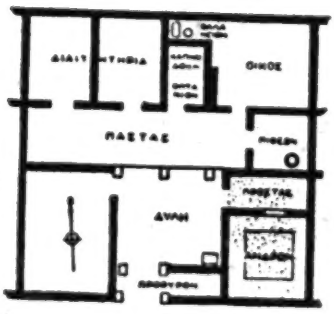
From what has been said, it has been clearly proved that there are two main building types: the type of the megaron and the type of the παστάς. Originated from elementary and simple shapes, they have gradually developed and, in continuous coexistence, they reached more composite and perfect forms of urban dwelling. For lack of sufficient data, we cannot follow equally well, the development of Greek house building during the subsequent period and the Middle-Ages (1); but the survival of the ancient building types in all their variety and vitality in modern Greece, which is clearly shown if we simply compare the plates attached, proves their continuity also

1) About the house in Byzance, in general, see **E. Gerland**, Das Wohnhaus der Byzantiner, Der Burgwart, 16 (1915) No 1 p. 10-19; **Ph. Koukoules**, Περὶ τὴν Βυζαντινὴν οἰκίαν, Ἑταιρὶς Ἐτ. Βυζαντινῶν Σπουδῶν ΙΒ' 1936 p. 76 and foll; **An. Orlandos**, Τὰ παλάτια καὶ τὰ σπίτια τοῦ Μυστρᾶ, Ἀρχεῖον Βυζαντ. Μνημείων τῆς Ἑλλάδος, vol. III 1937 pp. 54 and foll, 91 where one can realise certain differences in the house system of Middle Ages.

9:Megas I,B-5,4(no date) 1951 EH1 Greece EH1

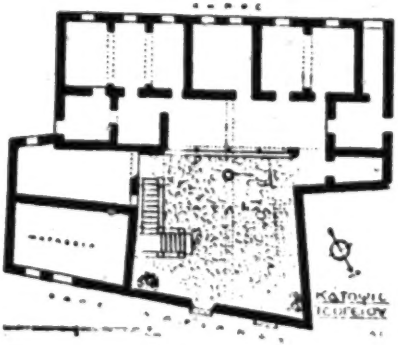
during the Middle Ages, so that their tradition in Greek soil remains continuous and unbroken from the most ancient times up to-day. 172 ● 342 ×

It should be further noted that the wide-front house, so common in modern Greek architecture, did also predominate during the classical period and probably in even previous ages, but while ruins of ancient dwellings lie as silent and enigmatic remains of the life they sprung from, and mostly show intricate the outlines of ancient Greek domestic architecture, modern Greek habitations being alive and active expressions of popular art, reveal by their bold shapes the evolution to actual popular architecture, and thus assist us in our understanding of the ancient shapes; this is the reason why the investigation of modern dwellings is of even greater importance.



Ground floor of house A VII 4 at Olynthus (between 432 and 348 B.C.)

(D. M. Robinson in Pauly-Wissowa-Kroll, Realenc. Suppl. VIII[1940 p. 258)



Ground floor plan of a dwelling situated at 96, Adrianos Street, Athens, dating from the 18th century A.D.

(An. Orlandos, Ἀρχεῖον Βυζαντ. μνημείων τῆς Ἑλλάδος, Athens, vol. V (1939-40) p. 199.

«The resemblance of the Athenian plan to the Olynthian speaks for itself... The basic arrangement of the vernacular Hellenic house has been preserved by an unseen undercurrent of precious tradition» Prof. Antony Kriesis in «The Architectural Review» London, June 1948 pp. 267 foll.

9:Megas I, B-5,4 (no date) 1951 EH1 Greece EH1
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But even later, after the 15th century, when Bulgaria, according to Zlatev (p. 154) has enjoyed peace and quietness under the strong Turkish authority and when together with economic flourish the building art progressed, especially in the mountainous areas, even then the construction of houses, in Bulgaria and in the rest of Balcan countries was done by foreign, mainly Greek, builders from Western Macedonia and Epirus, the famous «Mastorochoria» (builder's villages)(1).

We can thus explain the great similarity between the Bulgarian rural, and later urban, house to the Greek house as regards arrangement of spaces external architecture and the methods of building. Consequently, the evolution presented by the Bulgarian house from its simplest original forms to the more composite ones, not only on the former Greek lands (Rodope, Eastern Roumelia, Plate XVI) but also in the districts over the Haimos mountains (Plate XIII-XV) it is the same as that of the Greek house.

Zlatev knows the builders of Western Macedonia when he says that it is they who introduced the beautiful arched capitals to Western Bulgaria, that sometimes hang freely at the prostoon of the houses. But Zlatev sees in these a mark of the «Italian Rennaissance» which «the Macedonians transferred from the eastern shores of the Adriatic(!) to Western Bulgaria» (p. 155). This Italian Rennaissance, according to the Bulgarian architect, «was also transplanted in the house building of Eastern Bulgaria, yet through another route, namely through Constantinople and Adrianople, and the Aegean coasts, where it took a Byzantine influence»! That is to say, Zlatev does recognize

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tine court in everything. There were many foreign prisoners in the Bulgarian capital who were specialists in various arts, as well as free Byzantine master-technicians, even during the periods when the relations of Bulgaria with Byzantion were peaceful. We can safely say that the first teachers of the Bulgarians on art, crafts and handicrafts were foreigners. Everything which the court or the aristocrats needed, was made by these artisans». The fact that Greek craftsmen were teachers of the Bulgarians in building churches and houses, and that Byzantion sent craftsmen, builders, painters etc. into Bulgaria, may be seen in **I. Sakazov**, op. cit. pp. 46, 59, 78.

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1) On a total of twenty ancient tombs excavated in W. Macedonia by A. Keramopoullos, four contained, among other offerings, the tools of the dead (Minutes of Arch. Society, 1934, p. 77, 79, 80). It can be thus said that the craft of house-builder has been handed from father to son in that area for at least 2 000 years. (See **Ant. Keramopoullos,** Τί εἶναι οἱ Κουτσόβλαχοι Athens 1939, p. 56). About Epirote craftsmen see **Ang. Hadjimichali,** Ἠπειρωτικὴ λαϊκὴ τέχνη, Ἠπειρωτικὰ Χρονικὰ Ε' 1930 p. foll and «La maison grecque» in L'Hellénisme Contemporain, Ser. II, 3 (1949) pp. 250 foll.

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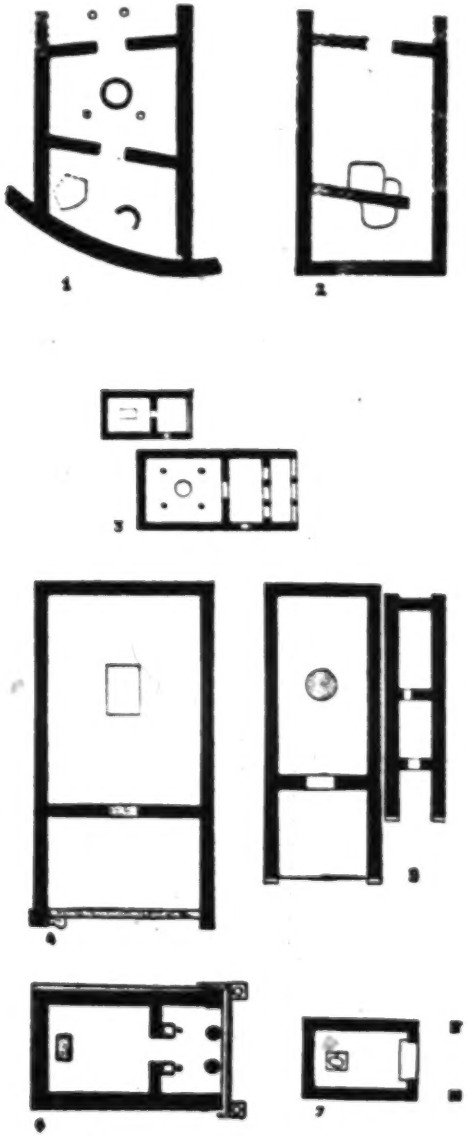
ANCIENT GREEK HOUSE PLATE X

TYPES OF ANCIENT MEGARON



[End Plate 10]

9:Megas I, B-5, 4 (no date) 1951 EH1 Greece EH1

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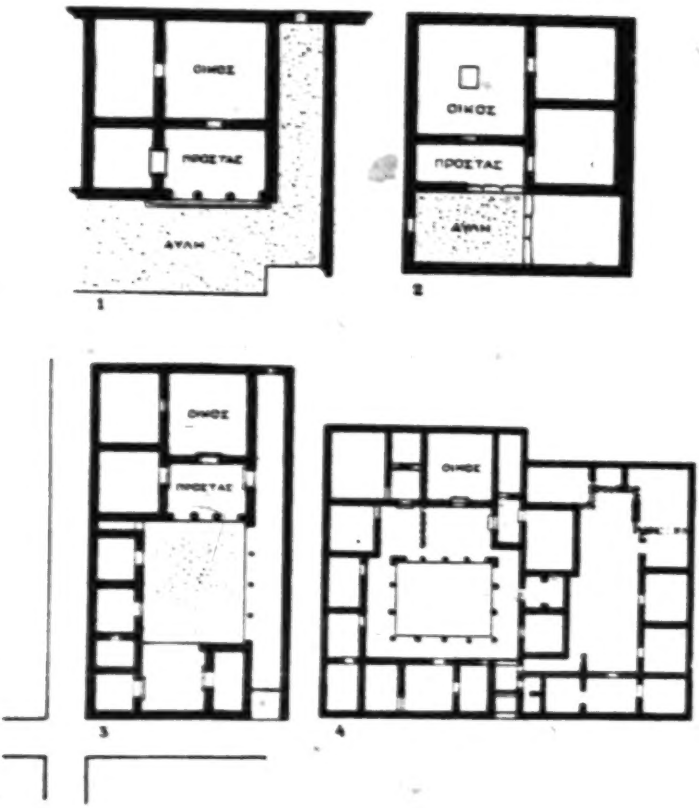
ANCIENT GREEK HOUSE

PLATE XI

MEGARON TYPE HOUSES OF PRIENE



[End Plate 11]

9:Megas I, B-5, 4 (no date) 1951 EH1 Greece EH1

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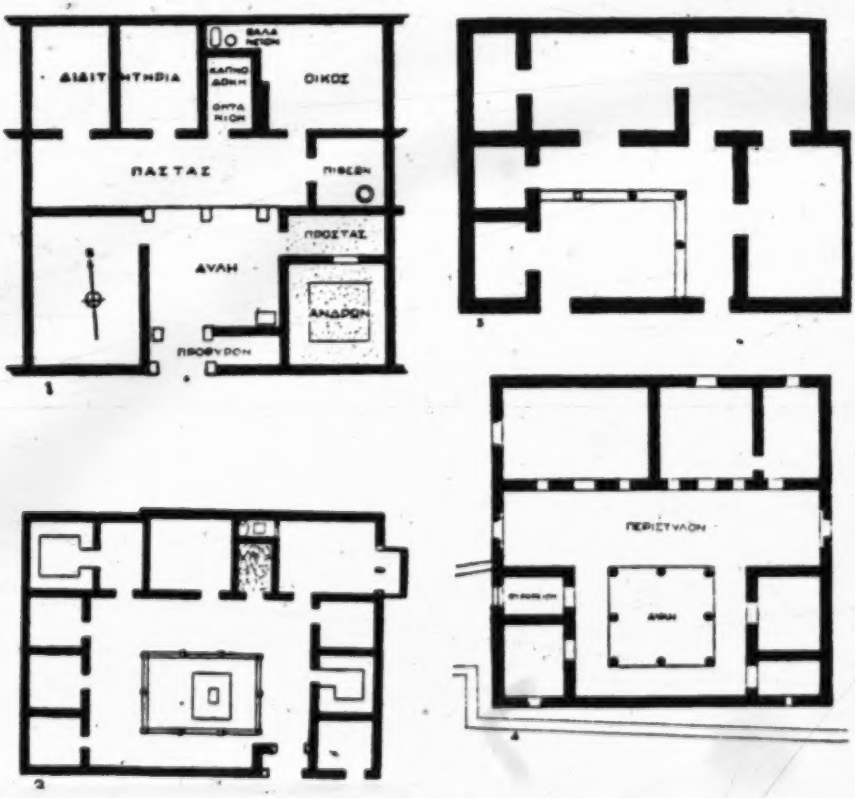
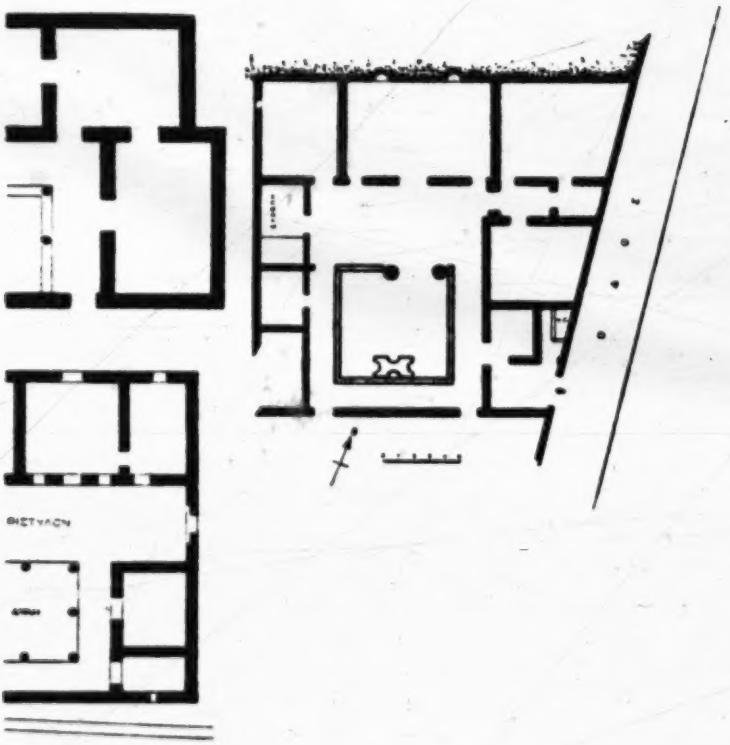
"PASTAS" TYPE HOUSES OF OLYNTHOS; DELOS; KOS.



[End Plate 12-A]

9:Megas I, B-5,4 (no date) 1951 EH1 Greece EH1

PLATE XII



[End Plate 12-B]